

AGAWAM

Advertiser News

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A TURLEY PUBLICATION

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Forum to unveil internet safety issues

By Mike Lydick
Turley Publications
Correspondent

The internet is a way of life for kids in the 21st century. From socializing to games to homework, it offers many benefits – but also many dangers.

Kids are incredibly adept at using the internet, which is why every

parent needs to be aware of the hazards lurking there. To help parents learn more about internet safety, there will be a two-hour safety/sexting forum on Wednesday, March 19, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Agawam Junior High School.

The forum is aimed primarily at people with children, but Agawam Police Officer Robert Burke said

“We want to inform as many people as we can about what to look for and how to look for it so we can protect children and adults.”

– Agawam Police Officer
Robert Burke

the forum is open to anyone who wants information about internet safety and sexting. Burke said he is unaware of any other forum in the state or the country like the one planned for Agawam. There is no cost to attend the forum and all presenters are volunteering their time. There is also no additional expense to Agawam taxpayers to hold this forum, he said.

The forum is a joint effort by representatives of the Agawam School Dept., the Agawam Police Dept., the Hampden County District Attorney’s office, and the Massachusetts State Police. It will include a panel of speakers and a presentation about the dangers the internet poses for children, especially the practice of sexting.

See **INTERNET**, page 6

SPRING TRAINING



Turley Publications photo by Kimberly Hatch

A confident Jack Levesque, 4, of Agawam, tests out his training wheels at Robinson Park School. Moderating temperatures drew residents outside last weekend.

Medical marijuana zoning ordinance up for consideration

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Correspondent

AGAWAM – With the end of a moratorium looming, the Agawam City Council will now consider a comprehensive zoning ordinance amendment to address medical marijuana facilities in town.

Several communities, including Agawam, declared moratoriums on medical marijuana facilities to work on developing zoning regulations. With a moratorium in place, Mayor Richard Cohen asked Planning and Development Coordinator Deborah Dachos and the Planning Board to develop a bylaw.

The bylaw was recommended by the Planning Board at their March 6 meeting and will go on the Agawam City Council agenda as new business for their March 17 meeting. At that meeting, the council will set a date for a public hearing. Cohen said he was pleased the board has come up with an ordinance ahead of the end of the moratorium.

“The moratorium was set to expire in May,” said Cohen. “I have read through the ordinance. I think it is a good ordinance. I think it addresses everything that needs to be addressed.”

The Planning Board, an appointed board by the city council, is the petitioning body for the resolution.

The ordinance will require any applicant for a medical marijuana growing facility or dispensary to get a special permit from the Planning Board. The new regulations require certain hours to be set by the board. The board can also make stipulations for deliveries.

The law also states marijuana cannot be smoked or otherwise consumed anywhere on the premises a facility is located on. Dispensaries can be no more than 2,500 square feet of floor space, and all aspects of acquisition, cultivation, processing, sales, distribution and dispensing cannot be visible on the exterior of the business. The ordinance states marijuana dispensing must take place in a fully-enclosed building.

There are also provisions for ventilation. Odors from marijuana cannot be detected by a person with an unimpaired and otherwise normal sense of smell at the exterior of the building or any adjoining property.

There are setback requirements for such facilities. They cannot be located within 500 feet of a school, childcare facility, or any place where children commonly congregate. A facility cannot abut a residential property.

At the end of the bylaw, there are some subjective rules that would allow the Planning Board to have

See **MARIJUANA**, page 6

Pothole problems linger

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Correspondent

AGAWAM – The 2013-2014 winter season has been an annoyance for many in Western Massachusetts with frequent snow events, multiple postponements of sports and activities, and worst of all – potholes.

Potholes have been a major issue in areas where trees canopy the road, but the pothole problem has extended to even major roads and highways because of the nature and frequency of snowstorms this year.

Department of Public Works Superintendent Christopher Golba says Agawam does have some problem areas, and wants residents to know that the DPW knows where they are, but only has the ability to fix holes in a limited manner until spring.

“We do not have the ability to hot patch the potholes in the road right now,” said Golba. “We can only hot patch once the weather is warmer.”

Golba’s issue is not uncommon and that is why towns like West Springfield have had to close major arteries, like a portion of West

Please see **POTHOLES**, page 6

State scraps plans for Route 57 overhaul

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Officials in Agawam and Southwick are working together to keep a project alive in the funding pipeline by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

Agawam Mayor Richard Cohen said a meeting in Boston a few weeks ago led him to believe the project to complete Route 57 was still being considered. The project has been in the pipeline for more than 20 years.

A few days later, Cohen received

different information. “I received a letter in the mail near the end of February saying the state was no longer considering the project,” said Cohen.

As a part of the project, the state would have had to purchase open space land owned by the Western Massachusetts Electric Company. The land would allowed the state to continue Route 57 from the end of the small highway portion near South Westfield Street, and continue all the way to the Southwick border.

The issue is of huge interest to the communities of Southwick and West Springfield, which both

attended a meeting in Northampton with Cohen and Secretary of Highway and Transportation Rich Davey.

Cohen pleaded the case for the completion of Route 57 in order to help with traffic concerns in all three towns.

For Agawam, the intersection at Feeding Hills center at the intersection of South Westfield and Southwick Streets are consistently congested. In addition, there is the

Please see **ROUTE 57**, page 6



Girl Scout Troop 20559 earns Bronze Award for shelter collections

Agawam Girl Scout Troop 20559 has spent the last several months earning their Bronze Award – the highest award that can be earned as a Junior Girl Scout. The girls chose to help local animal shelters by collecting needed supplies and making fleece kennel blankets to provide the animals comfort. The girls learned valuable skills like teamwork, leadership, budgeting and time management through out the process.

The girls toured two local animal shelters, did computer research, spoke with Agawam’s animal control officer, made 25 fleece kennel blankets out of donated fleece, collected 200 cans of dog and cat food, dry dog and cat food, towels, blankets, newspaper, cleaning products, toothbrushes, peanut butter, dog and cat treats, cat litter, baby food, cat and dog toys, leashes and collars and stuffed animals. They made a recent delivery to Southwick Animal Control and will be making a final delivery to Thomas J. O’Connor animal control in the near future. The girls will receive their Bronze Award pins at an upcoming troop ceremony on March 24.



Members of Agawam Girl Scout Troop 20559 pose with some of the many donations they have collected and some of the 25 kennel blankets they have made to comfort shelter animals. Pictured are (top row, left to right) Meagan McKiernan, Demi Benard, Erin Ewing, Sabrina McBride, Kiley Sheehan, Dahlia Ryan, Siobhan McMahon, Aneesa Dennis, Abbey Majka and Allison Breton; (Middle row, left to right) Emily St. Pierre, Julia Allen and Olivia Salva; (Bottom row, left to right) Emma Rockiki, Kalley Hamel, Emma Zollo, Gabrielle Zollo, Rachel Sills, Erica Majka and Kayleah Unglaub. Missing from the photo is Jillian Fitzgerald.

Limited supply of shingles vaccine available

AGAWAM – The Health Department has a limited supply of shingles vaccine for uninsured or underinsured adults age 60 years old or older. Eligible residents must provide at the time of their appointment a letter from their healthcare provider stating they have been medically cleared to receive the vaccination. Residents who are immune-suppressed, on long-term steroids, allergic to neomycin or gelatin may not receive the vaccine.

Call the Health Department at 786-0400 ext. 8722 to schedule an appointment. A \$15 administration fee is required.

Rabies clinic scheduled for March 15

The town of Agawam rabies and micro-chipping clinic will be held Saturday, March 15, from 10 a.m. until noon at Dave’s Soda and Pet City, located at 151 Springfield St., Agawam. The price of a rabies vaccine is \$12. The microchip is \$20 and includes the registration of the chip. Dog licenses for 2014 will also be issued. Dogs must be leashed and cats must be secured in a carrier.

Owners of pets eligible for a three-year vaccine must bring the previous year’s certificate. For more information or assistance, call Allison Strong, Agawam Animal Control, at 726-9754.

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Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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Public Safety

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 62 EMS calls and the following emergency response calls for the week from March 4 to March 10.

On March 4 at 6:56 p.m., the department responded to Red Fox Drive for carbon monoxide incident.

On March 5 at 11:56 a.m., the department responded to Walnut Street Ext. for lockout.

On March 7 at 11:26 a.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On March 7 at 12:15 p.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for unauthorized burning.

On March 7 at 6:46 p.m., the department responded to Tracy Drive for construction or demolition landfill fire.

On March 8 at 9:30 a.m., the department

responded to Alfred Circle for public service assistance, other.

On March 8 at 3:16 p.m., the department responded to Parkview Drive for water problem, other.

On March 8 at 6:05 p.m., the department responded to Van Deene Avenue for cover assignment, standby, moveup.

On March 8 at 6:56 p.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for unauthorized burning.

On March 9 at 2:48 p.m., the department responded to Castle Hills Road for smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

On March 9 at 3:47 p.m., the department responded to Cooley Street for lockout.

On March 9 at 8 p.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for vehicle accident with injuries.

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 285 calls for service from March 4 to March 10. The department made seven arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Saturday, March 8

Michael Browne, 27, of 111 Paucatuck Road, West Springfield, was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of liquor, marked lanes violation, and speeding.

Three juveniles were each arrested on charges of person under 21 in possession of liquor.

Alexander Joseph Ablianitis, 18, of 11

Willow Brook Drive, Agawam, was arrested on a charge of person under 21 in possession of liquor.

Sunday, March 9

Jonathan Barrett, 24, of 164 Bonair Ave., West Springfield, was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of liquor, failure to stop for a police officer, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, marked lanes violation, speeding, and possession of open container of alcohol in motor vehicle.

Brian A. Annette, 26, of 9 Crown St., Apt. 1, Westfield, was arrested on charges of operating a motor vehicle with license suspended, and failure to stop/yield.

'Wine and Canvas' to benefit Relay for Life

Relay for Life of Agawam Team Jan's Jokers will host a "Wine and Canvas" fundraising event Saturday, March 29, at Headquarters Bar and Grille, located at 485 Springfield St., Agawam.

"Wine and Canvas," the painting class with cocktails, will run from 7-10 p.m., with pizza and munchies offered as well. No tal-

ent or experience is necessary. Wine and Canvas instructors will guide participants step-by-step.

To register, visit wineandcanvas.com/springfield-ma.html and go to the private events calendar or contact Janine Iacolo at 478-9491 for more information. The public is invited.

Rep. Boldyga joins Republican colleagues in offering local aid resolution

BOSTON – In an ongoing commitment to providing fiscal certainty to the Commonwealth's cities and towns, Representative Nicholas Boldyga (R-Southwick) has joined the entire House Republican Caucus in filing a Local Aid Resolution to provide municipalities with timely notice of the Legislature's commitment to support them with local aid in fiscal year 2015.

"The resolution is geared toward keeping our communities safe and giving our local officials the tools to appropriately plan for the upcoming year. Increasing local aid for Agawam, Southwick and Granville will keep our property taxes low and ensure an affordable lifestyle. As a father of two young children, improving and adequately funding our schools is always at the forefront of my priorities. I am pleased to share once again; school funding is projected to increase in FY15. Ensuring our schools have the ability to provide our children the tools for a successful future, will guarantee our communities remain an attractive place to live, work and raise a family" said Boldyga.

All of these decisions hinge, in part, on how much local aid each community will receive from the state this year. As of now, these funding levels remain uncertain.

The resolution proposes the following:

- Increase the amount of Chapter 70 school aid given in the current fiscal year by \$113 million, which correlates to an additional investment of \$50 per student;

- Increase the amount of Unrestricted General Government Aid by \$75 million – an 8.15 percent increase over Fiscal Year 2014;

- Level fund the Reimbursement to Cities in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) with the FY14 appropriation;

- Increase the level of funding for Regional School Transportation by \$2.5 million over Fiscal Year 2014;

- Fund the reimbursement for the Special Education Circuit Breaker at \$252.5M, slightly above the Fiscal Year 2014 level; and

This resolution would provide, among other things, flexibility during budget debate so that the Legislature may further increase local aid appropriations from an established floor. It would also provide predictability for municipalities who are in the midst of constructing their own budgets.

The entire House of Representatives will now have the opportunity to join the House Republican Caucus in demonstrating its commitment to the Commonwealth's cities and towns.

Upcoming meeting to focus on Social Security options

The public is invited to attend an informational meeting about Social Security benefit options and how they may influence your retirement decisions. The program will be held at the Agawam Public Library Thursday, March 27, at 6:30 p.m.

Samuel Yawson and Ryan Hanson, financial professionals from Prudential, will answer some of the most common Social Security questions and help participants make more informed decisions about retirement.

Are you planning to take early retirement?

Or do you want to continue working until, or beyond, full retirement age? This program will help you make informed decisions about the future based on your Social Security benefit options and how much money you may need from other sources to supplement your retirement income.

Seating for this program is limited. For more information or to register for this program, call Ryan Hanson at (860) 512-2275, or email at ryan.hanson@prudential.com.

JOIN THE CREW: it's more than just a team!



Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club is recruiting young men and women in grades 9-12 for the Spring 2014 Rowing Team.

No experience necessary.

Program Information!

Practice is held March 17 - June 5th
Monday - Friday, 3:45 - 5:45pm
Some weekend races.

The team is open to high school aged students throughout the Pioneer Valley.



Not sure if it's for you? Try it out for the first week FREE! Scholarships Available

What is PVRC?

Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club is a 501(c)3 nonprofit which operates a recreational facility in the North End of Springfield with the mission to promote river-based sporting activities, to develop river access, and encourage recreation in the Greater Springfield metropolitan area.

For registration and information visit www.PVRiverfront.org or contact Coach Erin at Erin@PVRiverfront.org 413-736-1322

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Opinion

You have the right to know about your food

What is in your food? You have a right to know. These days, ingredients are listed on every prepared food item you purchase. Potential allergens are even highlighted. Dig a little deeper and you can tell if your food is grown using conventional or organic methods of farming. What else do you need to know? A lot. These days many foods are made with genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, but it is likely that you don't even know you are eating them.

Many of you may wonder what GMOs are and what makes them important enough for me to jump off of my "light and airy" bandwagon and write on a subject that is politically charged. To answer the second question first, it is because GMOs are everywhere and I don't have a choice in that (although I should). In fact, before I knew better I was feeding them to my own children in food and drinks that were considered "natural"

or even "health-foods." Do your whole grain kid-friendly snack crackers contain soybean oil? In 2011, 94% of soybeans grown in the United States were genetically modified. How about those corn flakes? Try eighty-eight percent of U.S. corn. As a mother, I deserve to know what is in the food my kids are eating. Heck, I deserve to know what I am eating. I also reserve the right to support with my grocery dollars those companies that don't use ingredients that are genetically modified.

One relatively easy to understand definition of the term "genetically modified organism" is "plants or animals that are created through biotechnology in which genes are spliced, combining DNA from different species in ways that can't happen in nature or through traditional crossbreeding." An example of genetic modification is 'Round-Up Ready' Soybeans, made when an herbicide resistant gene is taken from bacteria and in-

serted into the soybean plant. Now that soybean plant can withstand being doused with even more chemicals. Yeah.

What makes them a threat to our health and the health of our planet? According to the Massachusetts Right to Know coalition (www.marighttoknow.com) "GMOs have not been proven safe, and in fact, a growing body of peer-reviewed studies link the consumption of GMO foods to serious health risks, including allergies, infertility, and cancer. The only safety test results reviewed by federal regulators are voluntarily submitted by the industry, itself. Industry-sponsored safety trials last 90 days or less, with no human clinical trials. Worldwide, nearly 300 scientists and doctors, including the developer of the first commercialized GM crop, have signed on to a recent statement citing serious safety concerns with GMOs. With childhood allergies skyrocketing, parents trying to keep their sensitive kids healthy need to know if the food their children are eating contains potential allergens such as GMOs." Are

my children their science experiment?

The coalition goes on to say: "Due to increasing use of the GMO-associated Round-up herbicide, the EPA has recently increased tolerable limits of the chemical residue in our food. Mounting evidence links glyphosate (active ingredient in Roundup) to a host of major health problems, including the types of human birth defects reported in GM soy-growing areas of South America. The widespread use of GMO crops and associated chemicals is responsible for the emergence of "super weeds" and "super bugs," which can only be killed with ever more toxic poisons. GMO crops easily contaminate non-GMO crops, threatening organic agriculture and the consumer's ability to choose non-GMO foods. Unrestrained and unlabeled GMOs are a direct threat to traditional agriculture and, subsequently, to consumer freedom."

Despite all this gloom and doom it is a very exciting time for us here in the Northeast. Maine and Connecticut have already supported labeling measures and Vermont is not far behind. Right now there are five bills being considered in our own state of Massachusetts that are related to the labeling of

genetically engineered products. We have our own State Representative Todd Smola from the 1st Hampden District to thank for introducing one of the bills; State Representative Ellen Story from nearby Amherst also introduced two of the others. Legislative committees have until March 19th to "report out" (vote on) the bills they've been assigned otherwise advocates will have to wait until the 2015-16 cycle to try again. Here is what you can do: Before the March 19th deadline ask your legislator to support GMO labeling by sending them a simple email or leaving a message by phone. You can send a message in seconds with a link from www.marighttoknow.com; simply click on the "Write Now!" heading. Major food manufacturers are spending millions to thwart this cause; please make your voice as a mother, daughter or concerned steward speak louder than their dollars!

And in the meantime, you can choose foods that have undergone third party verification to be GMO-free. Look for the 'Non GMO Project' logo on approved foods. See their complete list at www.nongmoproject.org.



GUEST EDITORIAL

ROBERTA MCQUAID

AGAWAM

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2014 Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy combined together in a special issue four weeks out from a primary or general election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details 5-6 weeks before the election. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy after that special election coverage issue. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our Advertising Representative at John Baskin at 786-7747 or jbaskin@turley.com

turley.com. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per candidate during the election season. They may be sent to aan@turley.com. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

As a hometown newspaper, state, county and federal candidates in con-

tested races who reside privately in our main coverage town(s) are offered one staff written feature story at the time of their official announcement appearing at least two months before the election date. However, these same hometown candidates aren't allowed to submit a separate candidate statement or listing in our special election edition. If a state or federal candidate living in our direct coverage town(s) is running in an uncontested race, no feature story interview will be granted. That information will be included in the general story that runs the week before the election. That story contains general information, including the names of all the candidates who will appear on the ballots and polling information.

Letters to the Editor must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Please send letters to *Agawam Advertiser News*, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or e-mail aan@turley.com.

Doug White over there

Douglas White was born in 1916. Growing up in Chicopee, he received an appointment to attend West Point after graduation from Chicopee High, but West Point never happened. His dad was killed in a car accident by a drunk driver, and Doug was suddenly the financial support of his mom and his siblings. In 1943, Doug, like many American men his age, was in the Army trying to save our country from the tyranny of the Japanese, German and Italian governments.

His Army unit was stationed outside of Liverpool, England, which was a shipbuilding port, crucial to England's fight to save herself. A convenience-type store in Liverpool was quite interesting to Doug. Every day he needed something at the store; candy one day, a newspaper the next, maybe Kleenex, but definitely something. Something at the store was attracting him more than the candy – he got a date with the owner's daughter, Edith.

American soldiers in England in 1943 were there to save England and prepare for the invasion of France. Although the English knew they were needed, the GIs weren't popular with the English boys. The GIs had more money to spend on their dates with the English girls and had access to sweets, gum, cigarettes, stockings and many items from America that were hard to get in England or very expensive. Don Lawson in his book "An Album of World War II Homefronts," had this to say about our soldiers: "Much of

the early resentment against the GIs resulted in a popular British comment about them: "They're overpaid, overfed, oversexed, and over here."

Doug married Edith Addison in England in 1944. Their son, James Douglas, was born on Dec. 29, 1945, two days too soon to be a baby boomer. In May of 1946, Edith and young James came to the United States to wait for Doug whose unit had been sent to France. The Whites later bought a home on Senator Avenue in Agawam. Young Jimmy went to Danahy School on

Maple Street and then to the junior high on Main Street. Four years at the high school on Cooper Street led to Jim being probably the only one of the 196 '63s to have been born in England and the child of a GI-English romance. If we had not had WWII, James Douglas White would not have happened. Doug wouldn't have been in England and Edith might have married the young man she had been dating before Doug came along. The young man was a fireman who was killed by German aircraft while fighting a fire started by the German bombing.

After AHS, Jim got his degree from AIC and appropriately began teaching English at Agawam High. He was one of the first two soccer coaches at AHS and was the goalkeeper on Agawam's team in the Northern Connecticut Soccer League. Maybe the English ancestry had something to do with his natural ability as a goalkeeper.

One day at AHS, Jim brought in a couple of



English soccer magazines titled "Football," which is what the English call their sport. At lunch I hollered over to football coach Cliff Kibbe, "Mr. Kibbe, do you want to look at these football magazines?" He said sure, so I brought them over to him. I'll never forget the look on his face when he realized what they were. No wonder we miss him!

Jim taught English at AHS until his retirement a couple of years ago. His wife, Candace, is a manager in the retirement pensions division at MassMutual. Jim says she doesn't want to stay at home with him

all day so she's not retiring right away. Jim and Candace's daughter, Kaitlin, is a teacher in Ludlow. She and her husband, Mike, also a teacher, have a daughter, Kenna, 3 years old. Kaitlin's younger brother, Andrew, played football and baseball at AHS. A Westfield State graduate, he works in the retirement services division at MassMutual.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Walt Willard went to AHS and taught math there for 16 years. He can be reached at 786-7924. Call him. Walt loves your feedback and any and all information or tidbits you can offer.

YESTERDAY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

WALT WILLARD
ADVERTISER NEWS COLUMNIST

Letter to the Editor

Eagle Scout fundraiser a success

To the editor:

I just want to say thank you to all who donated items and gift cards to my Eagle Project for the Parish Cupboard in West Springfield. I was able to fill our Troop 185 trailer. In all, I collected 1,824 items and \$200 in gift cards. This will help feed many families in Agawam and West Springfield.

This was rewarding to see that I made a big change at a place that helps out our communities to feed people who are struggling to get by. Thank you again.

Matt Christian
Scout Troop 185
Agawam

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AJWC to host YMCA officials

The GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club (AJWC) will hold its next meeting Tuesday, March 18, at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center. Speakers for this evening will be Kirk Smith, president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Springfield, who will address the group on the impact that YMCAs have on a community and what Agawam can expect from having a new YMCA.

Joining him will be Julie Costello, vice president of membership and wellness; Katie Weiss, Agawam Y program coordinator; and Kristine Allard, chief operating officer. They will take questions surrounding membership, programs and fundraising specific to the Agawam Y.

This year, the AJWC is celebrating 57 years of volunteer service in the community. The club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, one of the largest female volunteer organizations in the world. Anyone interested in learning more about the AJWC and its volunteer projects is invited to the monthly meeting. Guests and potential new members are welcome. A social gathering will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 7 p.m. AJWC meetings are always open to the public.

For more information about how to become a member, contact Christina Beauchemin, membership chairperson, at 427-8784.

Free presentation to focus on cost of assisted living

David Fedor, certified financial planner at Fedor Financial Group, will offer free financial advice at Heritage Woods Assisted Living Monday, March 24, from 6-7 p.m. The topic of his presentation will be, "How Can Anyone Afford Assisted Living?"

Fedor will offer several options to consider based on the individual needs of the person. Refreshments will be served. As seating is limited, reservations must be made no later than March 19 by calling (413) 789-8332.

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Agawam Library to host spring children’s programs

The Agawam Public Library will host the following children’s spring programs. All programs are free, but registration is required and may be done online at www.agawamlibrary.org, by calling (413) 789-1550 ext. 3, or stop by the Children’s Room desk. When school is cancelled or delayed, library programs are cancelled.

Mother Goose on the Loose is an early-literacy program for children from birth to age 3 with their parents or caregivers. The program incorporates books, rhymes, music, movement, and child-grownup interaction.

Mother Goose on the Loose for Tiny Tots: Mondays, March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 28 - 10:30-11:30 a.m. for ages 19 - 28 months.

Mother Goose on the Loose Lapsit for Babies: Thursdays, March 27, April 3, 10, 17, May 1 - 9:30-10:15 a.m. for ages birth -18 months (no siblings).

Mother Goose on the Loose for Terrific

Toddlers: Thursdays, March 27, April 3, 10, 17, May 1 - 10:30-11:30 a.m. for ages 29 - 36 months.

Preschool Storytime: Mondays, March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 28 or Tuesdays, March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 29, 10:30-11:30 a.m. for ages 3-5. Stories, music, and a simple craft followed by 30 minutes of playtime.

Drop-In PJ Storytime: Wear PJs if you like. Wednesdays, March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 30 – 6 p.m. ages 3-5. A 30-minute storytime with stories, music, and a simple craft. Registration is required.

Walk and Try It Tour: Tuesday, March 11, 10 a.m. Meet at Super Stop & Shop, 1282 Springfield St., Agawam. For ages 2 ½ - 4 with their grown-up of any age. Enjoy an interactive tour of Super Stop & Shop, including samples. Children have fun learning about healthy eating in a new way.

Forum to tackle internet safety issues

INTERNET, from page 1

which is defined as sending sexually explicit text messages and/or photographs, primarily between mobile phones.

The consequences of sexting

“Sexting can be a big problem depending on the age of the people involved and the content of the messages sent,” said Burke. “Sexting is different than texting and driving or drinking and driving. While sexting does not involve driving, it can involve being charged criminally.”

“We want to inform as many people as we can about what to look for and how to look for it so we can protect children and adults. It’s especially important to educate parents so they can help us educate their children about these dangers,” added Burke, who has been assisting in planning the forum.

Kreag Sheehan is an AHS senior who has been involved in planning the forum. He represents his school on the Hamden County District Attorney’s Youth Advisory Board. The board, comprised of juniors and seniors from area high schools, advises DA Mark Mastroianni and his staff on ways to create safer school environments.

Sheehan said many parents and teenagers aren’t aware of the consequences of sexting, such as the fact that a person could be charged with possession of child pornography.

“This forum is extremely important because it will help raise awareness about sexting and the dangers of the internet,” Sheehan said.

He said if more teens understood what can happen to them if they send inappropriate messages or images, it would help reduce the problem of sexting. The forum will also help parents better understand photo messaging services like Snapchat and what they allow teenagers to do.

“We want to make parents more aware of the various methods teens use for sexting that parents might not necessarily know about. This information can help parents be more effective in keeping their children safe,” added Sheehan, who also serves as the student representative on the Agawam School Committee.

Helping keep kids safe

Burke, the school resource officer at the high school, added that any child who is online or who has a cell phone is subject to the dangers and issues regarding internet safety and sexting.



Turley Publications photos by Mike Lydick

Robert Burke is the school resource officer at Agawam High School and Kreag Sheehan is an AHS senior who serves on the Hampden County DA’s Youth Advisory Board. They have been working together to help organize a March 19 forum on Internet safety and sexting at the Agawam Junior High School.

“Parents should be concerned because there are many online predators that are looking to take advantage of children. Holding this forum is one way we can help parents protect their children as well as themselves from predators,” Burke said.

He said the forum is a case of the school and police departments being “diligent and proactive” rather any specific, ongoing problem in the Agawam area. The forum is an effort to inform the public about the dangers and consequences of giving information to people/strangers and about sexting.

“People give out a lot of information online – not only to websites but to other people,” said Burke. “Many people don’t realize that once they put their information online it will always be out there.”

He urged parents from Agawam and surrounding communities to attend the forum. There will be a question/answer session at the end of the presentation so anyone in the audience can ask the appropriate representatives and get the correct information.

There is no alternate date for the forum in the event of bad weather. However, Burke said there are plans to record the forum so that it can be replayed on the town’s two public access television channels, Channel 12 and Channel 15, so that as many people as possible can see the forum.

Pesky pothole problems

POTHOLES, from page 1

Springfield under the Route 20 rotary. The tunnel is closed for six weeks while repairs are ongoing.

Agawam is a little luckier, though there is no shortage of potholes throughout town.

“We have a lot of potholes in the North Street and North Westfield Street areas in Feeding Hills,” said Golba. “Other problem areas include lower Silver Street.”

There are potholes also in some areas of Routes 75 and 159.

“We are lucky right now,” said Golba. “We do not have any potholes out there that will envelop a person’s car. But they are a problem.”

Golba explained his workers are out almost every day filling potholes, but the frequent precipitation simply causes the potholes to re-develop.

“Because of the temperature, we can only do a cold patch on the potholes,” said Golba. “We try to compact and fill the holes the best we can, but when it rains or snows again, the water seeps through into the base coat of asphalt and breaks up the patch.”

Golba said the problem is also compound-

ed with the types of storms the area has seen this winter.

“We have had a lot of situations where storms have lasted over a course of two or three days,” he said. “They only drop about six or eight inches of snow, but for public safety we have to go out and plow and sand and salt several times. I would rather see a storm that lasts just one day and dumps 10 inches of snow on the ground. That way we only have to do one cleanup.”

Plows are another culprit in breaking up the cold patches. The thawing temperatures also add to the potholes as water is migrating into the street from melted snow. The water seeps into cold-patched potholes and creates a mess.

Golba advises motorists to slow down if they see puddles on the surface of the road because it likely means there is a pothole there.

Good news is on the way for residents on North Westfield Street, an area that has frequently seen potholes the past few years. Golba says the road will be paved this year from the Westfield line to the North Street intersection.

Medical marijuana zoning ordinance up for consideration

MARIJUANA, from page 1

some latitude to protect the integrity of an area that a marijuana facility may occupy.

The proposed ordinance says the Planning Board must find that any marijuana facility is designed to “minimize adverse visual and economic impacts on abutters and other parties of interests.” That rule will allow the Planning Board to consider the feelings and concerns of abutters and residents.

Cohen said he is not in a big hurry to see

a medical marijuana facility come to Agawam.

“Do I want to see a marijuana dispensary in town?” Cohen said. “No, but the law is the law and it was passed by the voters.”

Cohen says the Agawam City Council will have to set a public hearing date to discuss the ordinance. The public will be allowed to have input at the hearing before it comes to a vote of the council. Because it is a zoning ordinance, it will require eight of the 11 council members to approve it.

State scraps plans for Route 57 overhaul

ROUTE 57, from page 1

Granger Elementary School with frequent traffic in that area.

If Route 57 were to be completed, it would help shift traffic heading for Springfield to the completed Route 57.

In Southwick, Selectmen Chairman Russ Fox says the original concept behind completing Route 57 was to provide a simpler truck route to the town’s industrial park.

“If we had the road completed, it would make the trip for trucks bringing materials to town a lot easier,” said Fox. Currently, the trucks must go through the traffic-ridden intersection at Feeding Hills Center, and then travel up the mountain toward the Southwick border. The frequent truck traffic causes constant deterioration of South Westfield Street.

West Springfield officials believe the completion of Route 57 would decrease the traffic on Route 20 and Route 5. Route 5 feeds into Route 57 in Agawam. Route 20 is an alternate route to get to Southwick from West Springfield and Westfield.

Since meeting with Davey, Cohen said he has been sending information to Davey to

keep the project alive.

“Right now, I believe they are re-considering their position,” said Cohen.

In order for the state to do the project, they would have to earmark money to buy the land from WMECO. WMECO recently approached the state to see if they were interested in buying the land.

If WMECO were to sell the land to someone else, it would be developed as housing in Agawam. If the state does buy the land, they likely would not have to take anyone’s land through eminent domain from the current end of Route 57 to the Southwick border.

“I think all of the towns involved have a lot riding on getting this road completed,” said Fox. “We are going to keep on this.”

Fox says Southwick’s Chief Administrative Officer Karl Stinehart is in constant communication with Cohen regarding the project and the town wants to see it completed as soon as possible.

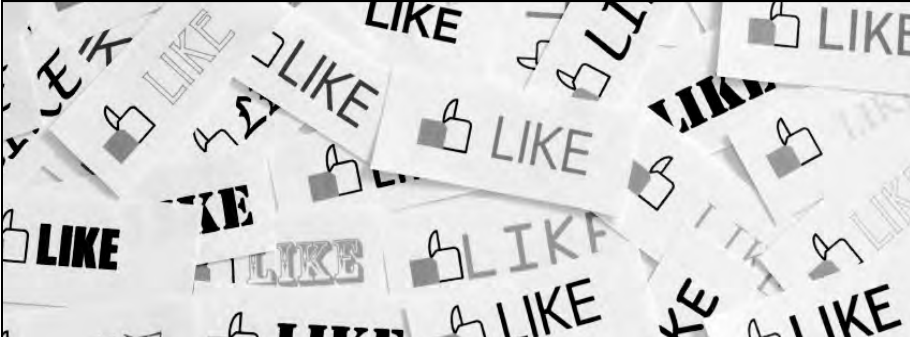
State Representative Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, and State Sen. Donald Humason, R-Westfield, are both working to get funding for the project.

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Camille Aloisi	Carina Nesen	Rachel Houle
KarlaMichelle Alvarado	Caitlin Normoyle	Veranika Hrytskevich
Lenox Alves	Mathew O’Keefe	Sarah Hulse
Meagan Arslanian	Joseph Oliver	Alexandra Humphries
Brianne Aubrey	Meagan Olson	Grayson Illouz
Morgan Baker	Deanna Pahl	Alina Iovenco
Emily Bartlett	Dario Papallo	Veniamin Iovenco
Jessica Bonfiglio	Melissa Paquette	Peter Jang
Dominic Brignoli	Sadie Parrotta	Irina Kaptyug
Isabella Brothers	Khush Patel	Samantha Kelley
Lauren Callahan	Nil Patel	Tyler Kelley
Joshua Carrier	Domenic Pellegrino	Amanda Kiley
Nicholas Casamento	Connor Pender	Amarii King
Adriana Chaika	Mia Perella	Matthew King
Markus Chobotaru	Justin Poirier	Oleksandra Kobylanska
Dylan Christy	Katelyn Poirier	Ariana Korcz
Kelly Colwell	Julia Potter	Adam Krafcik
Erin Consedine	Alexis Ralph	Diana Kulmizev
Dominique Counos	Nicholas Rempp	Autumn La Branche
Caitlin Courtney	Grace Rinaldi	Caroline LaBonte
Alicia Crochetiere	Quinn Robinson	Trysten Lajoie
Alyson Crochetiere	Matthew Rowe	Samantha Landry
Samantha Cross	Sonia Rubeck	Madelyn Lapierre
Caleigh Croteau	Jessica Santaniello	Isabella Liquori
Carlos Cruz	Jacob Sawyer	Tessa Lombardi-Williams
Santino Curto	Audrey Shuart	Devin Magovern
Natalie Dean	Laura Snow	Scott Malecki
Bianca DeSimone	Quinne Stoddard	Kaily Mayo
Zachary Dion	Kaylee Tang	Haily Mereschuk
Yuki Dong	Corey Taylor	Morgan Miller
Nicole Dougherty	Eliza Timms	Allysha Miolla
Paige Edwards	Benjamin Vyce	Vanni Morello
Nicholas Faillace	Jake Wieners	Evelyn Morrison
Amanda Faucher	Brea Wier	Jacob Mullins
Kristen Fellion	Shannon Williams	Camryn Nicora
Katerina Fenney	Mara Winer	Emily Oliver
Samantha Fett	Isabella Yacovone	Michael Olson
Rachel Florence	Fatima Zahoor	Honesty Osbourne
Emma Fogarty		Cassidy Patterson
Emily Fountain	Grade 7	Gwendolyn Payne
Grace Frogameni	Ashley Adams	Sophia Pearson
Steven Grasso	Kalea Alvarez	Joseph Pellegrino
Jenna Gravel	Mariangelie Beaudry	Jasmine Pszczola
Thomas Grenier	Jason Beaver	Natalie Pullen
Ethan Gulla	Juliet Burbank	Kyle Reed
Lindsay Hartmann	Samantha Buteau	Mariana Reid
Jonathan Heelon	Madison Carra	Noah Rivera
Joseph Hendrickson	Nicholas Charest	Chloe Robinson
Dominic Savio Higirow	Isolina Cipriani	Felicity Rovatti
Abbie Hoban	Madison Cofer	Faith Roy
Paige Hollander	Lilivette Colon	Sean Ryan
David Javadian	Eyan Corridan	Isaac Saenz
Leslie Jiang	Yasuo Council	Justin Salva
Kristina Kinchak	Amy Crawford	Pranav Saravanan
Tatyana Kodreanu	Anan Daniels	Lexie Sexton
Sarah Krafcik	Derek Davis	Jacob Shea
Nicholas Lamari	Tommaso DeCaro	Kayla Shields
Nicole Langevin	Taylor DeGeorge	Brandon Smith
Cassidy Laudato	Mia DePalma	Casey Smith
Haley Laudato	Olivia DePergola	Sara Sonsini
Caitlin Laviano	Rachel Dialessi	Hayley Sotolotto
William Le	Michale DiLullo	Shelby Stathis
Jarrold Lemke	Daniel Dobrowolski	Sophia Strain
Madison Lockwood	Daniel Donahue	Andrew Sullivan
Sara Lubarsky	Joseph Dowd	Jacob Sweeney
Jaden Luke	Patrick Drake	Justin Swistak
Nicole Luna	Corey Duquette	Avery Szulc
Zhihong Luo	Erin Dustin	Matthew Talevi
Kyle Ma	Rawan Ebrahim	Alexandria Taylor
Andrew MacDonald	Sarah Ehresman	Lena Tedeschi
Nicholas Malerba	Parker Florian	Alyse Theroux
Alyssa Martin	Leniyah Garcia	Joseph Thornton
Shaun Mateus	Maria Giberson-Acevedo	Noah Trude
Elizabeth Milliken	Kasey Gobeille	Ashley Ugolini
Amanda Moquin	Alia Godek	John Wheat
Karissa Morin	Timothy Goudreau	Sydney Winters
Alyssha Nadeau	Jenna Grasso	Dominic Zampiceni
	Meghan Haines	Gloria Zgherea
	Kayla Herlihy	

‘Race to Nowhere’ viewing open to the public

Smart Start Preschool in Agawam will host a showing of “Race to Nowhere,” a film that calls parents to challenge current thinking about how to prepare children for success. Named by TakePart.com as one of “10 Education Documentaries You Don’t Want to Miss,” the film brings communities together to spark dialogue and galvanize change in America’s schools.

The presentation will take place Monday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m. at Agawam Congre-

gational Church, located at 745 Main St., by Jeanine Fitzgerald, certified human behavior consultant and specialist, and owner of the Fitzgerald Institute of Lifelong Learning.

Admission is free and no registration is required. Discussion and refreshments will follow the viewing. Any changes to the event will be posted at www.facebook.com/Smart-StartPreschool. For more information, call Smart Start Preschool at (413) 786-0302.

Agawam Schools’ weekly lunch menu

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL	
The Agawam High School lunch menu is posted on the school’s website.	Wednesday, March 19: Roasted turkey with gravy over mashed potatoes, dinner roll, seasoned corn, fresh and chilled fruit.
AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	
Monday, March 17: Baked chicken nuggets with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.	Thursday, March 20: Shaved ham and cheese grinder, chips, baby carrots, juice box, chilled fruit.
Tuesday, March 18: Baked pretzel with cheese sauce for dipping, buttered noodles with broccoli cuts, fresh and chilled fruit.	Friday, March 21: Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.
Wednesday, March 19: Roasted turkey with gravy over mashed potatoes, dinner roll, seasoned corn, fresh and chilled fruit.	AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
Thursday, March 20: Chicken patty on a roll with condiments, baked chips, three-bean salad, fresh and chilled fruit.	Monday, March 17: Baked chicken nuggets with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.
Friday, March 21: Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.	Tuesday, March 18: Barbeque rib sandwich on a roll, side of mac and cheese, seasoned carrot coins, fresh and chilled fruit.
ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL	Wednesday, March 19: Roasted turkey with gravy over mashed potatoes, dinner roll, seasoned corn, fresh and chilled fruit.
Monday, March 17: Baked chicken nuggets with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.	Thursday, March 20: Shaved ham and cheese on whole-wheat bread, baked pretzels, baby carrots, juice box, Oreo cookies.
Tuesday, March 18: Barbeque rib sandwich on a roll, side of mac and cheese, seasoned carrot coins, fresh and chilled fruit.	Friday, March 21: Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

Junior Women scholarship applications available

The GFWC Agawam Junior Women’s Club is once again accepting applications for scholarships that will be awarded to deserving high school seniors who reside in Agawam or Feeding Hills and are planning to further their education in the current year. Applicants will be considered with an emphasis placed on those individuals who have volunteered in the community.

In addition to the AJWC General Scholarship, the Mouneimneh Future Teacher Scholarship for \$1,000 will be awarded to a senior who is pursuing a degree in the field of education. This scholarship is sponsored by Kathy Mouneimneh, retired Agawam High School teacher and former school committee member. The stipend Mouneim-

neh received as a school committee member is being housed by the AJWC, and the club members assist her in selecting its recipient each year.

Both scholarship applications are available online on the Agawam High School website under the “Counseling” tab. Agawam and Feeding Hills residents who are high school seniors but do not attend AHS can access the applications online or at their respective high schools. Both scholarship applications must be postmarked by April 1 and returned to GFWC Agawam Junior Women’s Club, P.O. Box 332, Agawam, MA 01001, Attn: Janine Iacolo. For more information, email Janine Iacolo at info@agawamgfwc.com.

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Obituaries & Church News

DEATH NOTICES & SERVICES

St. David's Church installs new Rector


Baszak, Steven C.
Died Feb. 21, 2014
Funeral April 5, 2014
Agawam Funeral Home

Ferrari, Mary
Died March 5, 2014
Memorial Service
March 8, 2014
Colonial Forastiere
Funeral Home

Johnson, Bruce P.
Died Feb. 6, 2014
Celebration of Life
April 19, 2014
Community Music
School

Roulier, Robert D.
Died March 3, 2014
Funeral March 7, 2014
Sampson's Chapel of
the Acres
Funeral Home
Springfield

Sullivan, Catherine M.
Died March 3, 2014
Funeral March 6, 2014
Agawam Funeral
Home



The feast day of St. David of Wales, which is March 1, is celebrated most every year by St. David's Episcopal Church on Springfield Street in Feeding Hills. It had a special significance this year. The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Harvey Hill, IV, more commonly called Fr. Harvey, was installed as Rector of the church on that date.

Attended by some 100 persons, including Agawam clergy from other denominations as well as area Episcopal clergy, the installation ceremony changed Fr. Harvey's status from Priest in Charge, a temporary appointment he has held for almost three years, to the position of Rector.

"The Episcopal Church welcomes all people, wherever they are in their life's journey, just as Jesus Christ did. And as such, it occupies a unique position in the spectrum of Christians, combining this inclusiveness with the beauty of liturgical rituals," said Fr. Harvey.

The title change represents a greater commitment between the priest and congregation and formalizes their mutual commitment to ministry and outreach in the area. St. David's outreach has been "kicked up a notch" in the past few years, and now includes a monthly Eucharist and lunch at Church Without Walls in West Springfield, a weekly play/support group for grandparents caring for their grandchildren, community dinners, family events, and benefit concerts and events for non-profit causes, among others.



Turley Publications courtesy photo

The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher, Bishop of Western Mass., right, is pictured with Rev. Dr. B. Harvey Hill, the newly-installed Rector of St. David's Church.

Agawam Advertiser News
Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Bible study at Sacred Heart Church

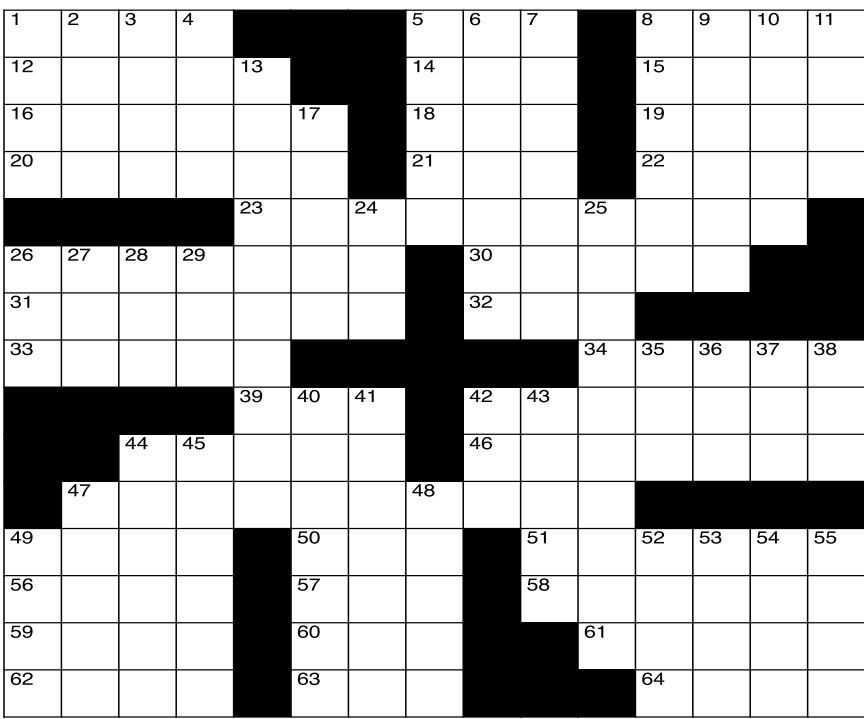
Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills will host "The Great Adventure: A Journey through the Bible," on Thursday, March 20. Two sessions will be available for "The Bible Timeline – The Story of Salvation," with Jeff Cavins on DVD, facilitated by Jean Raczkowski. There will be a morning session from 10 a.m. to noon and an evening session from 6:30-8:30 p.m. There is no cost for the program.

Books to accompany the DVDs may be purchased but are not necessary to do the study. For more information, call Jean at (413) 786-8200 ext. 3 or email j.raczkowski@sacred-heartfeedinghills.org.

Lenten discussion series open to the public

During the Lenten season, all are welcome to join in weekly faith formation discussions at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St., in Agawam. The series continues Thursday, March 20, at 7 p.m. in the parish hall. The topic is, "Dealing With Temptations." For a complete listing of Lent programs, visit [www. StJohnAgawam.org](http://www.StJohnAgawam.org).

For more information, email Sal Circosta at RE@stjohnagawam.org or all (413) 786-8105. This event is free and open to the public.



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5. 13th Hebrew letter
8. Microelectro-mechanical systems
12. Number system base 8
14. Doctors' group
15. Greenish blue
16. Sent by USPS
18. A Communist
19. Southern swearword
20. Get free
21. North northeast
22. Uncommon
23. Commit anew
26. Lion, goat & serpent
30. Irregularly notched
31. Lessened
32. Constitution Hall ladies
33. Fidelity

CLUES DOWN
1. Italian capital
2. Organization of C. American States (abbr.)
3. About organ of hearing
4. = to 100 sene
5. Champagne river
6. Improved by critical editing
7. Amber dessert wine
8. Indian plaid cloth
9. Equalize
10. Guillemot
11. Of sound mind
13. Irish elf
17. Makes tractors
24. Father
25. Bachelor's button
26. Vacuum tube
27. Of she
28. Wedding words

CLUES ACROSS
34. Mother of pearl
39. Help
42. Arouse passion
44. Avoid
46. About roof of the mouth
47. In a very soft tone
49. Periodic publications (slang)
50. __kosh b'gosh
51. Rouse from sleep
56. El Dorado High School
57. Golf ball stand
58. Tranquil
59. Pear shaped instrument
60. Anger
61. Raja wives
62. Dashes
63. Cardboard box (abbr.)
64. Human frame (slang)

CLUES DOWN
29. Em
35. Pie __ mode
36. Feline
37. Sandhurst
38. Snakelike fish
40. Crackbrained
41. Last course
42. Indicates near
43. Indian given name
44. Ordinal after 7th
45. Young women (Scot.)
47. "Taming of the Shrew" city
48. Luster
49. Conflate
52. Person of Arabia
53. Lotto
54. Children's author Blyton
55. "Untouchables" Elliot

Answers on page 6

News, upcoming events at Agawam Congregational

The public is invited to attend the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., "A place to call home – a people to call family." Worship service is Sundays at 10 a.m. with a children's message, church school and fellowship with coffee hour following.

Sunday, March 16: 10 a.m. worship service, with church school, and coffee hour. A special budget meeting of the congregation will take place

Monday, March 17: Loaves and Fishes meet at 4 p.m. at the church.

Newsletter collation will take place Friday, March 21, at 9 a.m.

Sunday, March 23: 10 a.m. worship service, church school and coffee hour.

Monday, March 24: Women's Ministry meets at 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 29: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., giant church tag sale open to the public.

Sunday, March 30: 10 a.m. worship service with "One Great Hour of Sharing," church school and coffee hour.

Public invited to tag sale

Agawam Congregational Church, located at 745 Main St., will host a giant tag sale Saturday, March 29, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. In addition to a bake sale, the event will also include fresh popcorn, clothes and accessories, toys and games, books, kitchen articles, household items, and more.



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*National Newspaper Association Reader Survey

Seniors

Agawam Senior Center

Weekly calendar of events

Monday, March 17: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9:30 a.m., Painting Club, Line Dancing; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., Bingo; 3 p.m., Senior Theater Meeting; 4 p.m., Tap Class; 5 p.m., Zumba.

Tuesday, March 18: 9 a.m., Exercise, Knitting, Sewing; 10 a.m., PACE; 12:30 p.m., Ladies Billiards, Mah Jongg, Movie ("Boy, Did I Get the Wrong Number"); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 2:30 p.m., Chorus; 4 p.m., Disability Commission Meeting; 4:30 p.m., Yoga; 6 p.m., Beginner Line Dance; 6:30 p.m., Evening Sewing Class.

Wednesday, March 19: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9 a.m.-noon, Ask Your CPA (sign up with Kristina); 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., Bridge, Widow and Widowers Group; 1 p.m., Scrabble, Ballroom Lessons; 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers Chapter 2 Meeting; 5 p.m., Zumba.

Thursday, March 20: 8 a.m.-Noon, Tax Prep. (by appt.); Foot Nurses Available (call for appt.); 9 a.m., Exercise; 9:30 a.m., Quilting; 10 a.m., Line Dancing; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Pitch, Open Art Class; 2 p.m., Melody Band Practice; 6 p.m., Genealogy Computer Class; 6:30 p.m., Pitch.

Friday, March 21: 9:15 a.m., Oil Painting; 9:30 a.m., Tai Chi; 11:15 a.m., Yoga; Noon, Canasta; 1 p.m., Pitch, Cribbage; 5 p.m., No Zumba tonight.

Lunch menu

Monday, March 17: Mulligan's stew, garden salad, Jell-O.

Tuesday, March 18: Sweet and sour chicken over brown rice, Chinese vegetables, pudding.

Wednesday, March 19: Vegetable chili on a baked potato topped with shredded cheese, spinach salad, baked good.

Thursday, March 20: Barbeque chicken, corn on the cob, coleslaw, watermelon.

Friday, March 27: Sweet potato-crust cod, scalloped potatoes, spinach, pears.

Seniors sound call for more singers



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Agawam Senior Center Chorus members Lois Miodowski, Shirley La-Mountain, and Judith Benerakis practice for their upcoming May performance. The chorus practices at the senior center every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m.

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam Senior Center Chorus is preparing for their May Irving Berlin Concert and are welcoming new members to their group.

The group has resumed their Tuesday afternoon meetings at the senior center and are hoping to add more singers in the next month for the big concert.

Robert Coelln said he joined the group in 1998 as a pianist and enjoys having the opportunity to perform in front of people.

"I really enjoy having the opportunity to play for everybody and keep them entertained," said Coelln.

The group mostly performs at senior centers and nursing homes, especially throughout Agawam. The group has performed at Country Estates and Heritage Hall in the past.

Lois Miodowski, who has been a member of the chorus for nearly 20 years. She says the group enjoys interacting with the crowds and wants people to come out and enjoy their concerts. People can also watch them practice on Tuesday afternoons around 2:30 p.m.

"We like to interact with people and have some fun," said Miodowski. "We sing a lot of older songs that people know and we encourage people to come out and sing along with us."

Miodowski, formerly of West Springfield, was a part of the Blue Ribbon Chorus, and performed at venues throughout the area,

including yearly at the Big E. She joined the Agawam chorus to continue her love of singing.

"I love to sing and be a part of the group," said Miodowski. "We have a lot of fun at our practices and rehearsals."

Miodowski says the group has made great strides under the leadership of Darcy Davis. Davis is an award-winning bulgiest and was a former director of the Agawam High School band.

Coelln said he used to play in a band with Davis in the 1980's, and joined the group when Davis was seeking a piano player for the chorus.

Miodowski says the group has about 10-12 members right now, with several coming in from winter vacations. She is hoping to see new members added to the group.

"When we have more people, it really starts to sound good," said Miodowski.

One of the recent new recruits is Judith Benerakis. She recalled her decision to join the chorus.

"I was actually exercising in the gym here one day a little more than a year ago," said Benerakis. "I heard them singing from the other room and I peaked my head to see what they were doing. They invited me in and I was hooked from there."

The chorus sings mostly songs from the World War I and World War II eras. They are currently preparing for a May concert, but also perform during the holiday season. For more information, go to the Agawam Senior Center when the group is having their Tuesday singing sessions.

Notes from the Music Room

By Darcy Davis

In the lobby of the auditorium at Agawam High School, there are a number of posters from a lot of the musicals that were produced by students during the years from 1956-1976. I have been meaning to explain what they are all about and how they got there for some time, but could not find the names of the students who did these posters in my vast treasure trove of memorabilia.

During the 1989-90 school year, the band parents assisted me in putting together a trivia game, complete with playing board, thousands of pieces of "play

money," and four booklets with questions and answers about every conceivable area of activity in the town's history. We made 100 of these games.

Some of the profit from the project was used to frame some of the winning show posters, and they were mounted in the auditorium lobby. I finally found the names of the students who did the posters and they will be put in another article.

We were so thankful for the hard work by Geraldine Schilling and all of the students from her art department who supported the shows over those many years with the poster contests as well as work on the sets.



Hearing Test Set for Senior Citizens

Announcement-
Free electronic hearing tests will be given from Monday-Friday 9am – 5pm at Avada Hearing Care Centers at 9 locations in Western Mass. Call to find the location nearest to you. The test has been arranged for anyone who suspects they are not hearing clearly. People who usually say they can hear but have trouble with understanding words are encouraged to come in for the tests. The testing includes newly-developed tests that determine your ability to hear speech in noisy environments. Everyone, especially those over 55 who have trouble hearing words clearly, should have a test annually. Demonstrations of the latest devices to improve clarity of speech will be available, on the spot, after the tests. You can HEAR for yourself if the latest methods of correction will help you understand words better.

Call for your Appointment

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Fitness First to host blood drive

Fitness First Health & Fitness Center, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a blood drive sponsored by Mercy Medical Center, Thursday, April 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A driver's license with photo or state identification with photo is required to donate blood. All donors should eat at least two to three hours prior to donating, weigh at least 110 pounds and must be 18 years or older. To make an appointment, call (413) 786-1460.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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Business

Curves fundraiser to benefit Parish Cupboard

Curves International, Inc., the largest chain of fitness centers for women in the world, has announced that the 2014 Curves Food Drive is taking place now through March 23 at participating Curves Clubs across the U.S. and Canada, including the Curves in Feeding Hills.

This year, Curves is inviting both non-members and members to take part in the food drive by bringing in a bag of non-perishable food or a monetary contribution of at least \$30 to be donated to a local community food bank. All new members who make a food or monetary donation will not be charged a service fee when joining Curves as either a Fitness or Curves Complete member (restrictions apply, see local club for details).

“Once again we are honored to offer the Curves Food Drive as a unique way for the community to come together and feed the needs of local food banks while simultaneously feeding the need for women’s health and fitness,” said Kathy Cardinale, of Curves of Feeding Hills. “This year, donations will benefit the Parish Cupboard.”

Now in its 16th year, the Curves Food Drive has gathered and donated more than 75 million pounds of food to benefit local community food banks. Over the years, Curves members have participated in unique ways including friendly in-club competitions and grocery cart parades.

For more information, visit Curves.com or Curves of Feeding Hills at 16 Southwick St., (413) 786-0909.

ASBAC to host financing workshop

The Agawam Small Business Assistance Center (ASBAC) will host a workshop for small business owners and managers titled, “The ABC’S of Small Business Financing.”

Wednesday, March 19, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Community Room of the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St.

The Small Business Administration has made several changes recently to make the application process easier for borrowers and lenders alike. It has waived origination fees for loans less than \$150,000 until later this year. All businesses will benefit from attending this panel discussion.

The public is invited to come and learn from the experts about funding resources, cash flow management and other general management skills to help advance your business. Panel members include Oreste Varela, a representative from the Springfield SBA office, Gary Besser, of First Niagra Bank, and Roberto Nieves, business development director, Common Capital.

This workshop is free, however, due to limited seating, registration is required and may be done online at asbac.net or by calling (413) 786-0172.

TOP PRODUCER



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Ted Cassell, right, president of Park Square Realty and manager of the Park Square Feeding Hills office, has announced that Kim Landry, left, is the number one realtor in the company and the Feeding Hills office top producer for sales volume. Landry has been a realtor since 1994 and is also a company trainer at Park Square Realty, a locally-owned company with 45 agents and locations in Feeding Hills and Westfield.

Legal Notices

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT Probate & Family Court Dept. HAMPDEN Div.

HD14E0009PP
To **Rose Maruca, Anthony Liquori, Beverly Rondinelli, and Susan Gensheimer**, all of Agawam; **Lena Peloquin** of West Springfield; **Cynthia Bryden** of Feeding Hills; **Genevieve Patrie** and **Anthony Basile**, both of East Longmeadow; **Bonnie Lee Gebbie** and **Peter Baruffaldi**, both of Chicopee, all in the County of Hampden; **Thomas Liquori** of Boca Raton, in the State of Florida; **John Krawiec** of New York, in the State of New York and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by **Ann Marie D’Arco** of said East Longmeadow, representing that she holds as tenant in common an undivided part or share of land lying in Feeding Hills, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that she desires that all of said land may be sold at public sale and praying that partition may be made of all the

land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield before ten o’clock in the forenoon on the eleventh day of April 2014, the return day of this citation.

Witness, **ANNE M. GEOFFRION** Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this twenty-sixth day of February 2014

Suzanne T. Seguin,
Register of Probate & Family Court
3/6,3/13,3/20/14

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT February 19, 2014

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a

public hearing at the Agawam Public Library Conference Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on **Monday, March 24, 2014 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the appeal of Paula Sullivan, who is appealing a decision of the Agawam Building Inspector as allowed in Section 2, Paragraph C of the town of Agawam’s “Adopted Charter” and MGL CH. 40A regarding parking at the premises identified as 1744 Main Street.

Doreen Prouty Chairperson
Agawam Board of Appeals
3/6,3/13/14

Town of Agawam LEGAL AD

The Town of Agawam is accepting proposals for the maintenance of the Agawam portion of the Connecticut River Walk and Bikeway and Pynchon Point Park parking lot landscaping for calendar year 2014. The path is 1.75 miles long and runs along the Connecticut River on the east side of River Road. Pynchon Point Park is located at the north end of River Road. The successful bidder shall be required to execute a contract

with the Town of Agawam. For a copy of the Request for Proposals and contract, please contact the Agawam Planning Office at 786-0400, extension 8738. Proposals shall be submitted to the Agawam Planning Office, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001, att: Deborah S. Dachos, by April 1, 2014.

PER ORDER OF:
Deborah S. Dachos,
Director
Office of Planning & Community Development
3/6,3/13/14

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600 Docket No. HD14P0370EA Estate of: Eileen C. Collier Also Known As: Eileen Catherine Collier Date of Death: November 16, 2013 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Arthur E. Collier, Jr.** of Agawam MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Arthur E. Collier, Jr. of Agawam MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are

entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
3/13/14

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD14C0028CA In the matter of: Katie Anne Dore Of: Feeding Hills, MA NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

To all persons interested in petition described:

A petition has been presented by **Katie A Dore** requesting that: **Katie Anne Dore** be allowed to change his/her/their name as follows:

Katie Anne Bramlett

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said Court at: Springfield on or before ten o’clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) on: 03/21/2014

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 21, 2014
Suzanne T Seguin
Register of Probate
3/13/14

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600 Docket No. HD14P0392EA Estate of: Christy Karr Date of Death: December 19, 2013 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Christy Karr, Jr.** of Imperial PA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Christy Karr, Jr. of Imperial PA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
3/13/14

HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legal notices for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.

Turley Publications, Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

Arts

TVAA meeting to feature Connecticut artist

The March meeting of the Tobacco Valley Artists Association will be held Wednesday, March 19, at 6:30 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. Award-winning Connecticut artist, Elizabeth Rhoades will demonstrate a pastel landscape. She was an elementary art educator for 35 years and has painted professionally for over 40 years. Rhoades has had many solo exhibits and her work is represented in a number of galleries as well as corporate and private collections throughout the U.S. The public is welcome to attend.

The perfect slide presentation...

...and the true story of disaster, survival, and incredible rescue

The Agawam Cultural Council welcomes author Michael Tougias to the Agawam Public Library for its popular Applause Series as its 10th season continues Friday, April 11, at 7 p.m. Tougias will present a slideshow in support of his latest book, "A Storm Too Soon."

This dramatic and inspiring program will transport participants into the heart of the 2007 storm that prompted one of the largest and most intense rescue efforts in Coast Guard history. An award-winning author of 20 books, Tougias is known for his fast-paced writing style and character-driven stories. His slide presentations have been described as, "like watching a movie with the author giving behind-the-scene details."



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Michael Tougias

Relive the efforts of the U.S. Coast Guard as they battle hurricane force winds in their attempt to reach a tattered life raft holding three men. Two-hundred fifty miles out to sea, with crashing waves of 70 feet, the pilots are unsure of their chances of saving the sailors or their own rescue swimmer. "A Storm Too Soon" is a heart-pounding tale of survival, the power of the human spirit, and one of the most incredible rescues ever attempted.

This presentation is suitable for all ages, and a book signing will follow the program.

The Agawam Public Library is located at 750 Cooper St. and can be reached by phone at (413) 789-1550. This and all Applause Series events are free and open to the public.

Additional information on each of the Applause Series events is available at the Agawam Cultural Council web site, www.agawamcc.org.

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SPRING IS IN THE AIR



Ken Soto, of Feeding Hills, and his son, Kevin, 10, shoot some hoops at Robinson Park School.



Turley Publications photos by Kimberly Hatch



Ava Levesque, 8, of Agawam, pedals along at Robinson Park School.



Alex Liptak and Buster Brown, of Agawam, walk past the field where the town's dog park will be located.



Patrick Asta-Ferrero shovels in a T-shirt at his North Street home.



Alex Scafuri, of Agawam (right) and his brother, Anthony Scafuri, of West Springfield, play some one-on-one at Robinson Park School.



Kathleen Dowd, of West Springfield, and her Corgi, Jake, take a sunlit walk in Robinson State Park.

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**\$100 will be credited to the account after the first direct deposit is made (minimum \$25) or after making 5 debit card transactions (ATM and/or POS) within 60 days of account opening. If achieved, this \$100 Bonus will be paid into the account by the last day of the statement cycle following the 60th day the account has been open.
***\$50 will be credited to the account after five ESB online bill payments have been posted to the account and online eStatements are activated (both must occur within 60 days of account opening). If achieved, this \$50 Bonus will be paid into the account by the last day of the statement cycle following the 60th day the account has been open.
****\$50 will be credited to the account if it remains open for at least 365 days. If achieved, this \$50 Bonus will be paid into the account by the last day of the statement cycle following the 365th day the account has been open.

Fundraiser to benefit Ronald McDonald House

SPRINGFIELD – The Ronald McDonald House Teen Board invites the public to join them at a skating fundraising party Friday, March 21, at Amelia Park Ice Arena in Westfield. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and a \$7 donation is requested for ice-skating from 8-8:50 p.m. Bring your own skates, or rentals

will be available for \$3. Baked goods will be for sale and there will be a 50/50 raffle. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Springfield, which serves as a “Home Away from Home” for children undergoing medical treatments at area hospitals.

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SPORTS

Bombers rally to take out Brownies

Agawam jumped out to 2-0 lead

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – With just 40 seconds left, Chris Sullivan iced the puck into an empty Agawam net to ice the game as the Westfield ice hockey team defeated Agawam in the Western Massachusetts Division 3 final Thursday night at Olympia Ice Center.

Agawam had three different leads throughout the game, but when the third period started, the teams were knotted 4-4.

The Brownies had the advantage early in the period, outshooting Westfield 8-4 in the first 5:00.

But with 8:23 left, Chris Sullivan was able to take a pass from Mike Santaniello and wristed it from the left side just after a faceoff to give Westfield their first lead of the game 5-4.

Agawam tried frantically during the final 8:00 to tie the score and send the game to overtime. Goalie Chris Walles was pulled with about 45 seconds remaining. Even with the extra attacker,

Please see BROWNIES, page 23



Turley Publications photo by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

Agawam captains (from left to right) Bobby Koziol, Cam Rivest, Mike Shea (Tournament coordinator), Justin Lecuyer and Alex Ablianitis pose with the trophy.

Depth key to Brownies success

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Depth has carried Agawam to a championship. Depth almost carried Agawam to a second championship in a harder league and harder division.

The 2013-2014 ice hockey season can be considered a huge success for the Agawam Brownies, which have gone from a Division 3A powerhouse to a Division 3 powerhouse. That type of a feat is very rare in high school sports.

The Brownies, along with coach Rich Feeley and his entire coaching staff down to the junior varsity level, have done an excellent job preparing Agawam for a big move.

For many years, Agawam could not get Holyoke, now South Hadley. Their Division 3A rivals continued to hold the Brownies at bay, beating them in four of five championship games.

However, Agawam got better and better over the past few years and built depth at every level of high school with very strong classes. Feeley has been blessed with having talent to work with from senior to freshman. That has included multiple talented goaltenders.

“You look at a kid like (goalie) Chris Walles who has been part of this program for five years and finally got the opportunity to be a consistent contributor on the ice this season (and was fantastic for us all season long),” said Feeley.

Please see HOCKEY, page 23



Turley Publications photos by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

Agawam's Billy Wysocki (18) carries the puck across the blueline.



Agawam coach Rich Feeley said “Joe Shea (19) skated for us for four years and has shown continued growth and development each and every day he has been a part of the program. One could say that he embodied what we want all of our kids to be.”

Agawam wraps up wrestling campaign

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – It was not to be for the two remaining Agawam High School wrestlers, who earned the right to compete in the New England Wrestling Championships last weekend in Providence, R.I.

Brennen Liebel, a 113-pound senior who won Western Massachusetts, and finished third in the state and at the all-states while also picking up his 100th win of the season, had a short run in the tournament.

Unfortunately, Anthony Basile, a junior at 145 pounds, a Western Mass. champion this season after coming back from a major knee injury, and a sixth-place finisher at the all-state meet, was not able to compete due to injury.

Coach Armondo Ramos said he is hoping that Basile would be able to compete, but he was not able to due to a shoulder injury he sustained at the all-state tournament.

Basile was injured in his first match at the all-states, separating his shoulder when he was dropped on it. Basile gutted out the rest of the tournament and managed to place sixth. However, rest and ice was not good enough and Basile was shut down, Ramos said.

Liebel was able to win just one match before losing and then falling into the consolation bracket, where he lost a second time and did not place.

Liebel's first match was against

the third-place finisher from Rhode Island, Joseph Riccutti. Liebel wrestled a flawless match, but did not get a pinfall in six minutes. He came away with a 7-0 shutout decision against the Rhode Island grappler.

Liebel then moved on to face Kyle Lindner, the all-state champion from New Milford, Conn. He was defeated in the third round by pinfall and headed to the consolation bracket.

In that bracket, he was pitted against Austin Shorey, the third-place finisher from Maine. Shorey scored a second round pinfall against Liebel, ending his run in the tournament.

Ramos said he is very proud of both grapplers for getting as far as they did, and is extremely pleased with the direction the wrestling program has been taking.

“Getting to New England two years in row is rare and shows the quality of our program,” said Ramos. “Many programs go years without sending guys. I had a lot of pride in how hard out guys have worked and this tournament proves that this is paying off. The Liebel brothers have been excellent role models for our guys and now the younger guys see that Agawam can compete at that level. It is a real motivator.”

Ramos says he attempts to put together the most difficult schedule possible to prepare his wrestlers to compete in the All-State and New England tournaments.

See WRESTLING, page 15

Stratton, Desrosiers named to 2014 Western Massachusetts Senior All-Star Game

Contest to take place March 21

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced today the team rosters for the 2014 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Games presented by MetroPCS and Chick-Fil-A. The 2014 All-Star event will be held on Friday, March 21 on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams at the Hall of Fame. A total of 60 players were selected from different divisions within the region to participate in three games that will showcase the top seniors for their final time.

“We are honored to be hosting these games and showcasing such talented players from Western Massachusetts here at the Basketball Hall of Fame,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Basketball Hall of Fame. “Every year, we get to watch these highly skilled seniors from the area celebrate the end of their high school basketball careers before they pursue their future endeavors. It is a truly special event and we thank Chick-Fil-A and MetroPCS for their support.”

The teams were selected by a committee made up of local coaches and media members that represent each division on the boys and girls side. The players will be broken down into six teams: Two boys and one girls team of Division 2, 3 and 4 players and two boys and one girls team of Division 1 players. Only seniors are eligible for the All-Star games. The first game at 5:30 p.m. will be the two Division 2, 3 and 4 boys teams, the second game at 7 p.m. will be the Division 2, 3 and 4 girls against the Division 1 girls and the final game of the evening will be the boys Division 1 teams at 8:30 p.m.

For the fourth year, the Basketball Hall of Fame will recognize one boy and one girl as the Western Massachusetts Players of the Year. A special presentation will be made to the recipients on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams. A distinguished panel of local media members select the award winners, who are recognized for their achievement on the court, plus sportsmanship and character off the court. In addition to honoring the Player of the Year winners, the Hall of Fame will recognize the two recipients of the Basketball Hall of Fame Boys and Girls scholarship award.

Tickets for the All-Star game will be available at the Hall of Fame box office the night of the games and will be good for all three games that evening.



Turley Publications photo by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com
Agawam senior Tyler Desrosiers was selected to play in the 2014 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Games presented by MetroPCS and Chick-Fil-A.

SPORTS CALENDAR

Mawaga Sporting Club 25th Lunker Trout Derby

AGAWAM - The Mawaga Sporting Club will host its 25th Lunker Trout Derby on Sunday, April 27, 377 Adams St.

This event is a great way to get outside for young and old alike. The club does a great job hosting this event and provides a well stocked pond, bait, breakfast, lunch, cash, door and raffle prizes.

Fishing is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with awards and raffles after 1 p.m. No license needed.

Ticket donation of \$15 per angler. Non angler guests are free.

Largest trout prize is \$500. Second place is \$100. There will also be a random size award of \$100. Caught tagged fish prize is also \$100.

For more info contact Dave Dussault or call the info line at 413-262-7401 and 413-265-0851.

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WRESTLING, from page 14

“When I was putting together the schedule, I tried to get the best possible competition in New England and I had doubts we would be up for the task,” said Ramos. “We wrestled in a 75-team regional tournament in Lowell, we faced the NE champions from Vermont and saw multiple top teams from Eastern Mass. Our guys embraced the challenge and rose to the occasion.”

Agawam won the regular season title in the Valley Wheel League and placed second as a team in Western Mass. and sixth as a team at the state meet.

Ramos says he has high expectations heading into next season. Next year’s senior class includes returning champion Basile along with Fred Karl-Morin, Jim Karl-Morin, Nick Blais, Nick Hope, Matt Plumodor, Gino Lazio and Tavon Brooks.

YOUTH WRESTLERS DO WELL AT STATES



Turley Publications submitted photo
AGAWAM - The Agawam Youth Wrestling Club just completed a great season. Agawam was represented by 10 of their grades 5 thru 8 wrestlers on Sunday, March 9 at the Massachusetts State Tournament in Northborough with three moving onto the New England Championship Tournament March 15-16. Agawam wrapped up their season with bringing 22 wrestlers grades kindergarten through 8 to the Springfield Youth Tournament on Saturday, March 8. Many of our wrestlers placed and all looked good out on the mat. A nice way to end the season.

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How to help kids choose an extracurricular activity

Today’s kids are busier than ever before. Commitments in the classroom coupled with a full slate of extracurricular activities have ensured that many of today’s school-aged children don’t have a minute to spare.

While it’s important for kids to embrace extracurricular activities, parents know it’s not always easy helping kids find the right activity that allows them to grow outside the classroom while still focusing on their responsibilities inside it. In addition, kids’ interests tend to change at the drop of a hat, so something they want to do today might bore them come tomorrow. To help kids choose and manage their extracurricular activities, consider the following tips.

- Emphasize that schoolwork must come first. Kids get excited about extracurricular activities, es-

pecially ones involving sports where they get to spend time playing with their friends. But parents should emphasize that school still comes first and that, if schoolwork starts to suffer, participation in extracurricular activities will be put on hold until kids get their studies back on track.

- Don’t overlook the social benefits of extracurricular activities. When helping kids choose an extracurricular activity, it’s important to leave the ultimate decision in their hands. After all, kids won’t get much of the experience if they’re reluctant to participate. However, parents should not overlook the social benefits of extracurricular activities. Consider those benefits when helping kids choose activities, especially if they’re likely to choose solitary activities like learning a musical instrument. It’s good to encourage such interests, but also try to encour-

age a balance between solitary activities and ones that encourage socialization with peers, such as a sports team, debate club or volunteering with other students at a local charity.

- Don’t forget the fun factor. Extracurricular activities are not just supposed to instill character, they’re also supposed to be fun. If kids aren’t having fun or showing any interest in a given extracurricular activity, then help them find another one. Kids need time to have fun away from school just like adults need time for fun away from the office. Weigh how enjoyable a given activity figures to be for your youngster before signing them up.

Certain extracurricular activities, including sports, require larger commitments than others.





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How to encourage kids to be more physically active

When today’s parents reflect on their childhood, many likely recall seemingly endless days spent playing outdoors. But when today’s kids become tomorrow’s parents, chances are their recollections won’t recall nearly as much time spent idling the days away under the sun.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, roughly 17 percent of American children and adolescents between the ages of 2 to 19 are obese. In Canada, where self-reporting data collection methods have made such statistics more difficult to quantify, the prevalence of overweight and obesity in children is also on the rise, according to the Canadian Community Health Survey.

The rise in overweight or obese children is likely a byproduct of several factors, not the least of which is that many of today’s kids prefer to play a video game on the couch instead of going outdoors and being physically active. The potential ramifications of youngsters choosing a more sedentary lifestyle are dangerous, as it increases their risk for high blood pressure, high cholesterol, type 2 diabetes, respiratory ailments and joint problems, among other things. What’s more, numerous studies have found that obese or overweight children are more likely to become obese or overweight adults, which highlights the importance of embracing a physically active lifestyle as a youngster.

Parents know it’s not always easy to get kids to be more physically active. But encouraging their kids to embrace a more active lifestyle.

Reduce time spent in front of the television. Parents who can effectively minimize the amount of time their child spends in front of the television, whether reducing their time spent watching television or playing video games, will likely be more successful at instilling a love of physical activity as well. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends parents limit their child’s time in front of the television to one to two hours per day, and that includes the time children spend playing video games. To further reduce kids’ time watching TV, don’t allow televisions in their bedrooms, as that will only make it harder to monitor just how much time kids are spending in front of their TVs.

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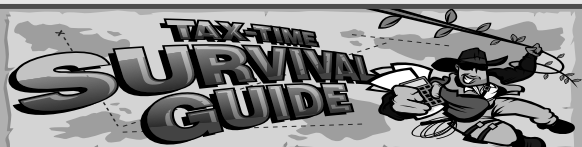
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CNR CRC is committed to maximizing utilization of Minority, and Women Business Enterprises (MBE,WBE), and will use good faith efforts to insure that underutilized businesses have the maximum practicable opportunity to compete for subcontract work under this Contract.

Interested parties should register for the outreach event with Alexandra Montalvo at montalvo.alexandra@sojitz.com. Please include selected attendance date, company name and the names of those attending. Two workshops have been scheduled:

Tuesday, March 18 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Springfield Marriott 2 Boland Way Springfield, MA 01115	Wednesday, March 19 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Boston Marriott Quincy 1000 Marriott Drive Quincy, Ma 02169
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BROWNIES, from page 14

Chris Sullivan got his stick on the puck and found the empty net from deep in Westfield’s side of the ice.

Agawam got started by taking a 2-0 lead. Brian Scoville, a freshman defenseman, took a pass from Seamus Curran and made a perfect shot from the right side. The puck went in the upper right of the net just under the crossbar. It was Agawam second shot of the game with 11:07 left to give the Brownies a 1-0 lead.

Curran scored the second goal of the game when there was a scrum in front of the Westfield net. Curran got a stick on the loose puck and flicked it on the backhand through goalie Garrett Matthews legs and into the goal.

In a curious move, Matthews was removed after that goal and replaced with Matt Blaschak, who played the rest of the game for the Bombers.

Westfield would come back to tie the score 2-2 early in the second period.

Agawam would retake the lead when John Colwell took a pass from Eric Kierkla and sent it home give the Brownies the lead again.

Westfield would tie the score 3-3 a short time later.

With 6:06 remaining in the second period, Scoville took a pass from Mike Pfau and sends a slapshot into the right side to make it 4-3.

Westfield would tie the score with 3:00 remaining in the second period.

Zach Circosta and Bobby Koziol had two assists each. Scoville led the team with two goals and Curran had a goal and an assist.

Though Agawam was defeated Westfield in two of the last three meetings, with the third a tie, coach Rich Feeley said Agawam’s big matchups against the Bombers are a great way to measure the recent success the Brownies have had.



Turley Publications photos by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com
Agawam’s Eric Kierkla (3) pushes the puck up the ice.



Agawam’s Cam Rivest (14) takes a look up the ice for a teammate to pass the puck to.

“I’d say they are a good measuring stick for success not just locally but statewide and we are now in the conversation with them,” said Feeley. “Also, worth noting is that Wayland won the North Sectional for Division 3. We beat them on the road earlier this year, so we are not only competing locally against good competition but having some success across the state. For me this speaks volumes of the kids and their preparation, their industriousness and their ability to compete.

“We had 48 kids sign up for tryouts this fall, extremely competitive tryouts, two extremely successful teams (between the jayvee and varsity levels), and another postseason run culminating in a Sectional Championship game.”

Agawam has now played in six Western Mass finals in the past seven years this is also the sixth year in a row that the kids won the regular season league title (five in the Fay, one in the Berry)

“The kids in the program both underclassmen as well as the graduating seniors have done an excellent job of stepping on the backs of those before them, and carrying on a commitment to success with Agawam High Hockey,” said Feeley.

BASKETBALL CHAMPS



Turley Publications submitted photo
AGAWAM - The Agawam boys basketball team won the fifth grade Suburban championship.

HOCKEY, from page 14

“He grew up watching a ton of AHS Hockey. His brother Andrew was a two-year captain for us. Chris has developed an appreciation for what it means to play for his school and community.

“Joe Shea skated for us for four years and has shown continued growth and development each and every day he has been a part of the program. One could say that he embodied what we want all of our kids to be. He worked hard while he was here, committed to the weight room, was extremely coachable and supportive of his teammates on and off the ice. I don’t think it is a coincidence that Joe scored two of the biggest goals we have had in the past two years (game winner against Grafton in the State Championship last year and the third goal against East Longmeadow in the Western Mass semifinals last week), based on his compete level.”



Agawam defenseman Brian Scoville (28) looks to make a play up the ice.

Feeley credited his dedicated coaching staff to help kids with the transition into tough competition. He says continuity among the coaches has been a huge help.

“The kids have been very lucky to have some quality coaches in John DeMont, Bobby Johnson, Mike Lazazzera, and Tyler Ziemba,” said Feeley. “This group of coaches have been together for a few years now and has made any transition for the kids a lot easier as they are very good coaches and even better people. The kids know that they are going to get their full commitment every day and as a teenager, that’s pretty important and they appreciate it.”

Feeley says there are a lot of Brownies graduating this spring, but is not worried at all about the future of Agawam continuing to compete in the very difficult Berry Division against some of the best competition in Western Massachusetts.

“We are graduating 11 seniors this spring,” said Feeley. “And while they all will be missed as each of them served as key components in the success of the team, we will be returning 12 talented, hard-working players in addition to several players who competed at the JV level this past winter who we expect will be playing key roles for us as we continue to push to be better. As a coaching staff, we are extremely optimistic about the future.”

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

BROWNIE SUPPORTERS



Turley Publications photos by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com
WEST SPRINGFIELD - The Agawam hockey fan faithful were out in full support for the hockey team’s Western Massachusetts Division 3 championship game against Westfield on Thursday, March 6.

Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote “free” events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Friday, March 14

ROBERT F. HURLEY, OF AGAWAM, the author of "Unlocking a Lasting Legacy...with Life Insurance" will be at Morning Star Christian Book & Music Store, located at 246 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, today from 3-7 p.m. and tomorrow from noon to 7 p.m. for a book-signing event.

Saturday, March 15

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will hold a blood drive from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. To make an appointment to donate blood, call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org.

THE HOLYOKE MERRY-GO-ROUND is open and ready for families to stop in and beat the winter blues. It is currently open Saturdays and Sundays from noon-4 p.m. with rides only \$2 each. Call (413) 538-9838 or visit www.holyokemerrygoround.org for more information.

Sunday, March 16

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS will host a “mini tour” at 1 p.m., led by Betty Romer, DMFa, highlighting “Man & War.” The tour is free with museum admission and secure, free onsite parking is available.

Tuesday, March 18

THE AGAWAM SENIOR CENTER will host a free movie ("Boy, Did I Get the Wrong Number") at 12:30 p.m. The public is welcome.

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library. No registration needed.

THE TUESDAY MORNING MUSIC CONCERT to be held at 10:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield will feature guest artists David McFerrin on baritone and Clifton J. Noble, Jr., on piano. Free refreshments provided. For more information, contact Yolanda Martin, 25 Valentine St., Springfield or John Karalekas, TMMC president, Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield 01138.

Thursday, March 20

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will hold a blood drive from 1-6 p.m. at OMG, Inc., 153 Bowles Road, Agawam. To make an appointment to donate blood, call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org.

THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAMILY PLAYGROUP, which takes place at the church at 745 Main St., Agawam, is open to children birth through age 5 with a parent or caregiver and meets weekly on Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m. It includes crafts, stories, songs, free play and more. For more information, call 786-7111 or email jbrownacc@verizon.net.

FIRST PARK MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH, corner of Garfield Street and Forest Park Ave. in Springfield, will host its monthly meeting of the retirees group beginning at 11:15 a.m. There will be a short worship service, followed by a corned beef and cabbage dinner and a special program. For more information, call the church office at (413) 734-1715.

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "Introduction to Arts of the Islamic World" featuring Kendra Weisbin, guest curator, at 12:15 p.m. in the Museum of Fine Arts at 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call (413) 263-6800, ext. 488.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING

THE SPRINGFIELD CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS will present organist Christa Rakich in concert, Sunday, March 23, at 3 p.m. at Christ Church Cathedral, 35 Chestnut St., Springfield. The program is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be received. A reception will follow.

LYRICOA, A 24-MEMBER CHORAL ENSEMBLE from the Boston area, will perform Sunday, March 23, at 7 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield. Suggested donation is \$15.

PAINTING DEDICATED



Turley Publications photo by Mike Lydick

Local artist and AHS graduate John Simpson (second from left) stands in front of a large painting he donated to his alma mater that now hangs in the school's rotunda. At a recent dedication of his gift, Simpson was joined by (from the left) AHS business teacher Michael Simpson (his brother), AHS art teacher Amber Waters, AHS Principal Steve Lemanski, AHS student Taylor Hartman and AHS art teacher Deb Florek. Simpson used a photo Hartman took of an art class drawing a model to create his painting last year when he was a guest artist at the school.

ADULT DROP-IN YOGA is offered Tuesday, March 25, at Agawam Public Library at 7 p.m. It is a beginner's class and open to adults 18 and over. Bring a yoga mat or blanket. No registration needed.


HOLY NAME ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, 323 Dickinson St, Springfield, will host "Sicut Cervus," a concert of a cappella repertoire drawn from three programs presented in its 2013-2014 season, Saturday, March 29 at 6 p.m. The public is welcome. Admission is free.


A CARD AND COLLECTIBLE SHOW will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Chicopee Boys and Girls Club, 580 Meadow St. Admission is \$1; kids under 10 are free. There will be over 40 tables, a door prize drawing every 30 minutes, and the club is handicap accessible. For more information, call (413) 593-6046.

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper Wednesday, April 9, at a cost of \$7 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at (888) 613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.

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